Backward districts in country

†963. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:
SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have recently marked two hundred districts in the country as backward ones;

(b) if so, the criteria fixed for marking them as backward ones;

(c) the names of this districts in the country, State-wise; and

(d) the number of families residing in these districts in each State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) No, Sir. The list of districts for coverage under the Backward Regions Grant Fund, announced for establishment in the current financial year 2005-06, is under finalisation.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Labour practices in Call Centres

964. SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI:
SHRI VIJAYJ.DARDA:

Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that according to NASSCOM more than 3,50,000 workers are employed in the BPO industry;

(b) if so, whether the labour practices of these Call Centres are in consonance with the existing labour laws;

(c) whether the V.V. Giri National Institute of Labour have made some adverse comments about regulating the work force in such centres; and

(d) if so, the views of Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. CHANDRASEKHAR RAO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) BPOs are covered under existing labour laws. The State Governments are the "appropriate Government" under the various labour laws and legally vested with the powers to deal with the violation of labour laws in BPO sector.

†Original notice of question was received in Hindi